Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /095 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 137714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MT, FR, IT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

SUBJECT: ITALIAN/FRENCH DIALOGUE WITH GOM

REF: VALLETTA 521

1. DURING JUNE 10 COURTESY CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE VEST, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR GAJA DELIVERED AN AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING CURRENT ITALIAN VIEWS ON MALTA TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF A CONFIDENTIAL GOM MEMORANDUM OF MAY 7, 1977 WHICH SPELLED OUT MINTOFF'S DESIRES FOR WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. (COPIES OF BOTH DOCUMENTS POUCHED TO VALLETTA, PARIS, AND ROME.)

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2. ON NEUTRALITY FORMULA, GAJA SAID ITALY WISHES TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH USG AS TALKS WITH MALTA PROCEED. ITALY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN US VIEWS OF POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL ASPECTS OF FORMULA UNDER WHICH ITALY AND FRANCE WOULD RECOGNIZE UNILATERAL MALTESE DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY WHILE AGREEING TO "CONSULT" IN CASE OF A "VIOLATION OR

THREAT TO MALTESE NEUTRALITY."

3. ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS MINTOFF'S REQUESTS UNREASONABLE, BUT ALSO BELIEVES IT USEFUL TO MAINTAIN EUROPEAN INFLUENCE THROUGH THE "CONTROL"

OF MALTESE ECONOMY WHICH AID WOULD ENTAIL. ONLY BY "ATTRACTING" MALTA TOWARD EUROPE, HE CONCLUDED, WOULD LIBYAN INFLUENCE BE BALANCED.

4. VEST NOTED OUR PREFERENCE FOR NOT GETTING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MINTOFF, ADDING THAT WE WOULD GIVE ITALIAN THOUGHTS CAREFUL STUDY. CHRISTOPHER

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